

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MHMAUGHAN:DPW

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.

S/S:MR. ORTIZ

P:PCHABIB

INR:HNSAUNDERS (INFO)

H:HNELSON (INFO)

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O P 211329Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

INFO USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 180095

STADIS//////////

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IZ, IR

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN BARZANI VISIT

REF: STATE 162819

1. NEA/ARN COUNTRY DIRECTOR TALKED WITH BARZANI AT SOME LENGTH JULY 9-10 IN ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA. BARZANI INDICATED HE WOULD LIKE TO REMAIN IN THE U.S. FOR SEVEN OR EIGHT MONTHS, BUT RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED ADVICE THAT IT WOULD BE BEST FOR HIM TO RETURN TO IRAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER COMPLETION OF CURRENT DENTAL AND MEDICAL TREATMENT. THE POINTS WERE MADE THAT HIS VISA HAD BEEN GRANTED ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD BE FOR MEDICAL REASONS EXCLUSIVELY, THAT THIS WAS THE UNDERSTANDING WITH THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT, AND THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO STICK TO THE ORIGINAL

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ARRANGEMENTS. SAVAK ESCORT WAS PRESENT AT THESE TALKS AND

ALSO HEARD BARZANI'S OTHER REQUEST BELOW.

2. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, DECIDED TO ACCEDE TO ANOTHER BARZANI REQUEST, WHICH WAS THAT HE BE ALLOWED TO SPEND A FEW DAYS IN WASHINGTON TO PAY CALLS ON PEOPLE WHO HAVE SHOWN AN INTEREST IN THE KURDISH CAUSE IN THE PAST AND THEN GO FOR A FEW DAYS TO A MOUNTAIN RESORT FOR REST BEFORE LEAVING FOR IRAN. CALLS WOULD INCLUDE SENATOR JACKSON, CONGRESSMAN

WILSON OF TEXAS, AND GEORGE MEANY. BARZANI ALSO MENTIONED FORMER JUSTICE DOUGLAS, BUT IT WAS POINTED OUT HE PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE IN WASHINGTON. WE BELIEVE THIS GESTURE WILL ASSUAGE BARZANI'S PRIDE AND MAKE IT EASIER FOR US TO GET HIM TO CO-OPERATE WITH OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF GETTING HIM BACK TO IRAN FAIRLY PROMPTLY AND ALSO FORESTALL THE KIND OF STORY PLANTED BY THE BARZANI PARTY LAST TIME. WE WILL, IN THE MEANTIME, DO OUR BEST, IN CONSULTATION WITH JACKSON'S, MEANY'S AND WILSON'S STAFF, TO ENSURE THAT UNDESIRABLE PUBLICITY DOES NOT EMERGE AS A RESULT OF THE VISITS.

3. IF THE STORY OF BARZANI'S WASHINGTON TRIP DOES LEAK, DESPITE OUR EFFORTS, OUR POSITION WILL BE THAT (A) WE HAVE OF COURSE CO-OPERATED WITH BARZANI'S WISH TO HAVE FURTHER MEDICAL TREATMENT WITH THE DOCTORS WHO HAVE TREATED HIM IN THE PAST AND ARE FAMILIAR WITH HIS CASE; AND (B) NOW THAT HIS TREATMENTS ARE COMPLETED, HE IS SPENDING A SHORT TIME RESTING AND VISITING BEFORE RETURNING TO IRAN.

4. DRAWING ON THE FOREGOING, PLEASE INFORM THE IRANIANS THAT WE HAVE DECIDED TO ALLOW BARZANI TO COME TO WASHINGTON FOR A FEW DAYS, FOLLOWED BY A SHORT VISIT TO A RESORT. WE THINK THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE THE MATTER SINCE BARZANI'S AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE HAS ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE PEOPLE BARZANI WANTS TO SEE. FOR US TO PREVENT THE PROPOSED MEETINGS COULD LEAD TO UNDESIRABLE PUBLICITY FROM THEM AS WELL AS FROM THE BARZANI ENTOURAGE. SO FAR, THE PRESS HAS NOT LEARNED OF THE BARZANI VISIT TO THE U.S.

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5. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR IMPRESSIONS ON THE IRANIANS' RESPONSE.
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